

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th August 1903.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(e)—Jails—	
Persian politics ...	707	Nil.	
India and the cost of the South African garri- son ...	ib.	(d) Education—	
The Tibetan question ...	ib.	Irregularities in the selection of text-book ...	713
The Manchurian question ...	ib.	The Colleges in the United Provinces ...	714
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Adminis- tration—	
(a)—Police—		Sale of unwholesome sweetmeats in the Burdwan Municipality ...	
Thefts in the town of Comilla ...	707	The Barisal Charitable Dispensary ...	ib.
The Sub-Inspector of the Kasba thana in the Tippera district ...	708	The question of a Water-works Committee for My- mensingh town ...	ib.
Dacoities in the Burdwan district ...	ib.	Pollution of river-water in Jessore ...	715
Counterfeit coins in Barisal town ...	ib.	The Calcutta license office ...	ib.
Vigorous police administration in Backergunge ...	ib.	"The Indians are outlanders in their own country" ...	ib.
Faulty election of punchayets and its effects ...	ib.	(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
Outrage upon a woman in Assam ...	709	The Barisal survey and settlement ...	717
Disorderly young men in the Mymensingh dis- trict ...	ib.	The Patichara Ward's Estate under the Dinajpur Collectorate ...	ib.
Oppressiveness of the chaukidari-tax ...	ib.	(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
A secret police circular ...	ib.	Outrage committed by British soldiers at a railway station ...	717
The Commissioner of Police, Calcutta ...	ib.	Oppression at the Sealdah station ...	ib.
Dacoities in Bengal, past and present ...	710	Railway complaints ...	718
The case of the Police Inspector ...	ib.	A lady missed on the East Indian Railway ...	ib.
A woman brutally ravished in the Dacca district ...	ib.	A railway complaint ...	719
Cattle-lifting in Contai ...	711	The Bengal Provincial Railway ...	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		English trade <i>versus</i> Native life ...	ib.
The 2nd Munsif of Barisal ...	711	(h)—General—	
Babu Govinda Chandra Basak, Sub-Judge of Barisal ...	ib.	A postal question ...	720
The Sub-Registrar at Dagarbhuya in the Noakhali district ...	ib.	Partiality of Government for Europeans and Eura- sians ...	ib.
Babu Ramapati De, Munsif of Ranaghat ...	ib.	The cost of the South African garrison ...	ib.
The Monday fair at Bankipore and the District Judge ...	ib.		
The High Court in the Gopal Lal Sil will case ...	ib.		
The Munsif of Balurghat in the Dinajpur district ...	ib.		
The Extra Assistant Commissioner of Habiganj ...	712		
The case of an old <i>chaprasi</i> in the Calcutta Police Court ...	ib.		
Mr. N. N. Mitter, Honorary Presidency Magis- trate ...	ib.		
The Court language of the United Provinces ...	713		
The Munsif of Munshiganj in the Dacca district ...	ib.		
The Sub-Judge of Dacca ...	ib.		
The Sub-Registrar of Palang in the Dacca district...	ib.		

(h)—General—concluded.

Mr. Sanderson of the Burma Government Press ...	721
Grievances of native signallers in the Telegraph Department ...	ib.
Extension of Lord Curzon's tenure of office ...	722

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Bengal Settled Estates Bill ...	722
The Bengal Settled Estates Bill ...	ib.
The Bengal Settled Estates Bill ...	ib.
The Bengal Settled Estates Bill ...	723

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Distress in a village in the Kandi Subdivision ...	724
Distress in the Midnapore district ...	ib.
Treatment of some people of the Doro pargana in the Midnapore district ...	ib.
Prospect of famine in Bengal ...	725
Scarcity in Birbhum ...	ib.
Distress in some villages in the Birbhum district ...	ib.
Impending famine in Bengal ...	ib.
Distress in a village in the Bankura district ...	ib.
Distress in a village in the Bankura district ...	726
Distress in the Contai khas mahal ...	ib.
Distress in different parts of the Midnapore district ...	ib.

Page.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Sivaji festival in Calcutta ...	726
Food inspection necessary in Berhampur town ...	727
The Irish and Indian subjects of the Emperor ...	728
Extension of Lord Curzon's term of office ...	ib.
Extension of Lord Curzon's term ...	ib.
Extension of Lord Curzon's term. His Excellency's speech ...	729
Extension of Lord Curzon's term ...	730
Lord Curzon's patronage of the Indian fine arts ...	731
The British and the Musulman rule compared ...	ib.
An indecent fair in Lucknow ...	ib.
The Sovereign's own supervision of his State affairs ...	ib.
Extension of Lord Curzon's term ...	732
The Lieutenant-Governor at Murshidabad ...	733
Extension of Lord Curzon's term ...	734
Babu Srisch Chandra Ghosh, late Deputy Magistrate of Tamluk ...	ib.
The Sivaji festival ...	ib.

Page.

URIYA PAPERS.

The rainfall in Orissa ...	735
Cholera in Cuttack town ...	ib.
A market at Halurisinga in Angul ...	ib.
Mr. Brodrick's proposal ...	ib.
The middle English school at Pipli in the Puri district ...	ib.
Arrears of revenues in the Cuttack district ...	ib.
The economic condition of Orissa, past and present ...	ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August says that, headed by the Russian Consul, the anarchists of Ispahan, in Persia, lately raised the standard of

Persian politics.

rebellion. The rising was suppressed with great difficulty, and the Russian Consul was held responsible for the rising by the Russian Government. All this shows the carelessness of the Court of Persia. This carelessness is the cause of the weakness of Persia.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Aug. 3rd, 1903.

2. Referring to the proposal to saddle India with the cost of the South African garrison, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th August writes as follows:—

India and the cost of the South African garrison.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

Lord George Hamilton had proposed that two-thirds of the entire cost of maintaining the South African garrison should be borne by the British Government and one-third by the Government of India. But Lord Curzon has not given his consent to the proposal. Neither the Government of India, nor the Secretary of State, nor even Mr. Brodrick, will surrender the view expressed by each. Here, therefore, is a most embarrassing situation. The Minister of War, Mr. Brodrick, we have no hesitation in saying, is unfit to hold the office of the Governor-General of India, and he ought, in our opinion, to give up all expectation about it. India is also unwilling to have a Viceroy of his stamp. If Lord Curzon and Lord George Hamilton assume a firm attitude and threaten to resign their respective offices, if their views are not accepted, Mr. Brodrick's iniquitous proposal will have no chance of being acted upon; and the 300 million inhabitants of India will be for ever obliged to their Lordships. If the Secretary of State at last decides to accept Mr. Brodrick's proposal, and public opinion then characterizes such action on his Lordship's part as an attempt to murder the innocent people of India under the cloak of civilization, will the expression of such public opinion be regarded as unjust and improper?

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August says:—

The Tibetan question.

God alone knows what fate awaits Tibet. England and Russia are both casting keen and wistful glances at her. Reuter wires that Russia has recently sent a few hundred Cossack soldiers to Tibet. If this be true, England will not certainly remain inactive, and English troops will soon be advancing towards that country. The situation, which appears to be a dangerous one, has unsettled men's minds.

HITAVADI,
August 7th, 1903.

4. The same paper says that Russia has, like the demon in Eastern fables, got on the shoulders of Manchuria, and it does not appear that she will soon leave them. Reuter wires that, in a recent meeting held at Port Arthur, the Russian Government has decided to spend one crore and thirty lakh dollars in building forts, etc., at the Port and at Dalni and the surrounding places. The project will no doubt be soon carried out. Russia is preaching peace to the world, and is at the same time making preparations for war in Manchuria. It appears from all this that a terrible war will soon be going on in that country. How long will Russia be able to deceive England, America, and Japan with sweet insincere words?

HITAVADI.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

5. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 25th July says that although three additional Sub-Inspectors of Police have been posted at Comilla, thefts in the town have not decreased in number. It has been proposed to punish any one found on the streets without a light after 10 o'clock in the evening. Such a measure will not have the desired effect; on the contrary, it will increase the oppression of innocent men by the police. Passengers for the trains due at Comilla at 10 P.M. and at 2-30 A.M. will be put to great harassment if such a measure be adopted, the more so as the poorer classes cannot always afford lanterns for lighting their way.

Thefts in the town of Comilla.

PRATINIDHI,
July 25th, 1903.

PRATINIDHI,
July, 25th, 1903.

6. A correspondent writing to the same paper says that complaints are frequently made against the Sub-Inspector of Police in charge of the Kasba thana in the Tippera district. It seems strange that the police authorities should place such an inexperienced officer in charge of a station instead of keeping him in the reserve.

The Sub-Inspector of the Kasba thana in the Tippera district.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

7. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 4th August says that the following dacoities occurring in the Burdwan district within a week will show how life and property are secure in it :—

Dacoities in the Burdwan district.

The first of these cases took place about 9 or 10 days ago at Sujipur, a small village within a mile of the Galsi thana. The dacoity was committed at the house of the late Ramlal Pabi. The dacoits, who were up-country men, and about 8 or 9 in number, beat back some daring villagers, who came to the rescue of the owner of the house, and carried on the work of plunder for three or four hours, after which they made their escape. Two or three *khalasis* of the Galsi station have been arrested for having been implicated in the offence, but no property has yet been recovered. The rest of the culprits are still at large.

On Sunday last a dacoity took place at the house of a Brahman in the village of Sekhpur near the Sanktigar station. In this case the dacoits were up-country men. They plundered everything and set clothes on fire. It is not known what steps have been taken by the police to trace the offenders in this case.

About the same time another dacoity was committed at Gobghat within the Galsi thana. The offenders in this case have not yet been traced.

BIKAS,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

8. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 4th August complains that counterfeit coins are largely used in the daily transactions in Barisal town, so much so, indeed, that probably not less than three-eighths of the whole belong to this category. Government should take early notice of this matter.

Counterfeit coins in Barisal town.

BIKAS.

9. The same paper says that great consternation prevails among the subordinate police officers of Backergunge, owing to the strict enforcement of discipline among them by Mr. Simpson, the District Superintendent of Police. Police Sub-Inspector Annada Charan Gupta has been dismissed, and Babus Khirod Chandra Chatterji and Anathbandhu Datta have been suspended. The desire of Mr. Simpson to reform the Backergunge police, as evidenced by his vigorous action, is deserving of all praise, although the severity of the punishments inflicted by him can by no means be justified.

Vigorous police administration in Backergunge.

PALLIVASI,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

10. A correspondent writes to the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 5th August as follows :—

Faulty election of panchayets and its effects.

Recently a case occurred in which the assistant panchayets of the Dastipara Union, police-station Purvasthali, had a rueful experience as to the nature of the responsibility of the appointments they held. Their collecting panchayet embezzled part of the money collected by him, and then finding that it would go very hard with him in consequence, absconded. The result was that the assistant panchayets were compelled to make good the money misappropriated by the collecting panchayet to prevent the sale of their movable property, each paying his own share. One of their number, Rajendra Chandra Ray, a poor man, was then confined to his bed by serious illness, and was unable to pay his share of the money. His only son, a young lad, could not be expected to collect the money, so the Civil Court peon came and carried away a cow, the boy's pet. At this, the boy rolled on the ground and wailed loudly. The mother also was bathed in tears, and the scene was a most touching one to those who were present. The child could not be silenced, nor could he be persuaded to take his food, until the cow was recovered and brought to his presence. At last a fellow-villager sold his stock of molasses, and with the proceeds paid off the peon. The boy, when he got back the cow, kissed her and gave her food, and then he took his own food. Now, who is responsible for all this? As long as the system of election of panchayets remains faulty, such cases will continue to repeat themselves.

11. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th August learns that an unusually frightful case of outrage upon a woman occurred at Gauhati, the perpetrators being certain police constables. Budhilal, a Nepalee beggar, and his wife, Gurkhalini, aged 21, were sitting under a tree to the west of the Cotton Factory on the 3rd July. At 7 in the evening four constables came to the spot and ordered them to leave the place, and the couple at once left. But two constables followed and overtook them, and pretending that Budhilal was a run-away prisoner from jail, caught him and marched him away. The four constables now dragged the woman into the jungle and, notwithstanding her violent protests and struggles, committed rape upon her. In the meantime her *lota* and other articles, which had been left on the road, were stolen by a *budmash*. This latter has since been detected and sent to jail for three months, but the constables are still at large.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

12. A correspondent from Tangail writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th August, complaining that prostitutes and other attendant evils are on the increase in Binnafoir, a prosperous village in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. On the 19th *Asarh*, a gang of dissolute young men, all belonging to the respectable classes, crossed the neighbouring *khal*, and went to the bazar to buy wine, which is clandestinely sold there by certain persons. At midnight, Syama, an old prostitute, was seriously hurt by these young men. A medical man daily attended the woman, but she died on the 15th *Sravan* from the effects of the injuries received. The body was thrown into the river. The police has now taken up the case. The culprits should receive exemplary punishment, otherwise their number as well as their atrocities will go on increasing.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 6th, 1903.

13. The same paper publishes the following report from correspondents:—
Virpushia, Karotiya, Tangail, Mymensingh.—
Oppressiveness of the *chauki-dari-tax*. *Virpushia* is a small village four or five miles from Tangail. It is inhabited by a few respectable men whose occupations generally compel them to live away from their homes, and by poor cultivators and labourers. There are two *chaukidars*, and five *dafadars* and *panchayets* in this village. Thefts are, as usual, very common. The *chaukidars* never go on their rounds at night. In most cases the tax requires to be realised by auction sale. But no notice is taken of the neglect of duty by *chaukidars* and *panchayets*. The assessment of the *chaukidari-tax* is most unjust. The following is a list of persons who deserve exemption from the tax, but from whom the tax is collected perforce:—

SANJIVANI.

- (1) The widow of Lakshman Namasudra, an old beggar.
- (2) The widow of Ramsundar Changa, a beggar.
- (3) The widow of Gaher Sheikh, a beggar, having many children.
- (4) Ramanath Majhi, possesses no lands, a very poor man, over-assessed.
- (5) Sambhu Majhi, greatly embarrassed on account of debts, very poor.

14. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 7th August says that in the course of the hearing in the Calcutta High Court of the appeal preferred by the Police Inspector Bijayendralal Mitra, a reference was made to a secret police circular—a circular by virtue of which any Police Inspector can send any man to *hajat* with the permission of the Police Commissioner. The people of Calcutta, however, knew nothing of the existence of so dangerous a circular. The Judges who heard the appeal have done the country a real good by their recommendation that the circular should be published for the information of the public. This circular is of a piece with the *budmashi* section lately added to the Indian Penal Code. Is there no means, we ask, of disarming the police of the dangerous power conferred upon it by this circular—a power by virtue of which it can send any man to *hajat*? These rigorous provisions show that Government does not trust the Indians, although they are probably the mildest people on earth.

SAMAY,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

15. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th August says that Mr. Bignell, the Police Commissioner, has taken in hand two very important matters. Most of the prostitutes residing in houses situated between the junction of Corn-

NAVA YUG,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

The Commissioner of Police,
Calcutta.

wallis Street and Beadon Street, and Grey Street, have already removed to other parts. But they ought not to be allowed to occupy houses near respectable quarters. The sale of wine after 9 o'clock at night has not been stopped, although the wine shops are closed at that hour. The houses of prostitutes near the wine shops are turned into wine depôts from which sale of wine continues unabated. Agents are also employed who supply wine to the houses of many persons. Wine is also kept in the houses of persons who are friends of the wine dealers, and thus the sale of wine after 9 o'clock has, on the whole, increased.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

16. Dacoities are, nowadays, writes the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August, very common in all parts of India. How far these have prospered in Bengal may be inferred from the fact that Dum-Dum, Tollyganj, Baranagore, places so near Calcutta, are not altogether free from them. Forty-six years ago Bengal was infested with dacoits, but the number of cases that crop up now is during a year even more than double the number at that remote period. The dacoits then made use of swords and guns, but the people also had the right to use those weapons to defend themselves. But now their relative positions have changed. The dacoits now manage, as they managed before, to collect swords and guns for their use, but the people have been deprived of these weapons. Alas! what is to become of this helplessness of the people? The Bengali then had strength, could wield his sword, and make use of his *lathi*. Government did not then, as it does now, come forward to help the people in every instance. The people could defend themselves with their own resources. But they are now disarmed, and before the police can come to their help, the dacoits carry away most of their goods, inflicting severe outrages upon them. It will be to our advantage if, O Lord Curzon, you deign to stay here two years more. You will then get time to reflect and devise remedial measures. It will not do merely to make the police more powerful. The people's strength must likewise be increased, so that they may make their own defence. The partial success which the Police Commission of that period attained in repressing crime was probably due to the fact that the people had not been disarmed.

BANGAVASI.

17. Referring to the acquittal of Babu Bijayendralal Mitra, Inspector of Police, at the High Court, the same paper remarks as follows:—

The case of the Police Inspector. Manmatha Babu, the complainant, failed to file his complaint within three months, and on this technical ground alone has the appellant, Babu Bijayendralal Mitra, been acquitted. Either because Manmatha Babu had to pass many days in the hospital and the police brought a case against him, or, it might be, he did not know that the period of limitation ran for three months only, he failed to complain within that period. But this plea was not raised in the Police Court. Supposing a man is mercilessly beaten by the police, and he is compelled to remain in hospital for more than three months in a disabled state, will justice be denied him? This is certainly a serious matter. The authorities should institute proper inquiries, and the period of limitation in such cases should be extended to six months. May not the head of the police institute a departmental enquiry in the Inspector's case? The Police Commissioner has no right to issue any circular he pleases.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 9th, 1903.

18. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 9th August says that 25 or 26 days ago the wife of one Hari Mandal, an inhabitant of the Bejgan village near Bikrampore in the Dacca district, fled away, ostensibly with a neighbour named Hara Kishor Mandal, who was missed at the same time. On the night of the 13th *Shravan* last her brother and uncle, accompanied by a number of *budmashes*, broke into the house in which the young wife of Hara Kishor was sleeping alone, gagged her, and carried her away to a neighbouring place, where they ravished her. After this they ducked her in the water of the local river and then let her go. She swam across the river in a naked condition and told the villagers all that had happened. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

19. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 11th August complains that cattle-lifting is rife in Contai. Cows have lately been stolen from the house of Viswanath Jana, of village Dama, as well as from the houses of Sundar Das and several other persons.

NIHAR,
Aug. 11th, 1903.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

20. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 4th August says that the 2nd Munsif of Barisal is believed to be a mere puppet in the hands of one of his amla. Private considerations ought certainly not to find a place in the transaction of public business.

BIKAS,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

21. The same paper says that Babu Govinda Chandra Basak, the Subordinate Judge of Barisal, behaves in a most ungentlemanly manner towards his subordinates. Babu Govinda Chandra should not forget that his subordinates are respectable men and deserve civil treatment at his hands.

BIKAS,

22. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 5th August says that the office of the Sub-Registrar of Dagarbhuya in the Noakhali district is so close to his residence that it might be considered to be a part of the latter. Official duties when discharged at home cannot be expected to be discharged properly. Besides, every person has his enemies, and the enemies of the Sub-Registrar may not like to go to his residence for any business which they may have to transact with him.

SUHRID,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Pratika* [Calcutta] of the 5th August writes that among those who complained to the District Judge against the misbehaviour of Babu Ramapati De, Munsif of Ranaghat, was one Asaruddi. The man was ordered to be prosecuted on the ground that his petition contained defamatory matter. Against this order, he moved the High Court, and engaged Mr. Jackson as his Counsel. The result was that the prosecution was withdrawn. With a little tact, Mr. Cargill, the District Judge, might have prevented the matter from going to the bitter end. It is to be regretted that the Judge has not as yet given any proof of his possession of this happy gift. Judging from the circumstances, it cannot be expected that the quarrel will end satisfactorily.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

24. The same paper says that the *Sombhari-mela* or Monday fair at Bankipore has suddenly stopped owing to an arbitrary order of Mr. Holmwood, the District Judge. The *mela* is held every Monday during the month of *Sravan* in a spacious *maidan*, near the Judge's Court, and it has been so held for many years. It is attended by nearly 30,000 people. Now it so happened that while Mr. Holmwood was one day driving in his *landau* on the *mela* ground, one of the horses accidentally overturned a tin tub, and being frightened, reared and plunged, hurling the coachman on the ground. This was the root of all the trouble. Mr. Holmwood ought to have remembered that this was a pure accident, before losing the balance of his mind.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

25. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th August says that in the Will case of the late Babu Gopal Lal Sil, their Lordships have held that the will presented was not genuine, and have ordered the prosecution of those responsible for it for perjury and forgery. The papers in connection with the case have been made over to the Government Solicitor for this purpose. The judgment of the High Court, it must be observed, is a just judgment, and their Lordships have done well in ordering the prosecution of the guilty people. It will serve as a deterrent to those gentlemen of the legal profession who are invariably found connected with many dark deeds on the death of some wealthy man or other of Calcutta. Probably there will be an appeal to the Privy Council against the judgment of the High Court. But it is not likely that an appeal will be sanctioned before the prosecution has come to a close.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 6th, 1903.

26. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August says that the Munsif of Balurghat in the Dinajpur district holds his Court from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. This causes great inconvenience to parties, pleaders,

HITAVADI,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

and witnesses. Again, the Munsif has ordered that in every case a fee varying from anna 1 to annas 2 should be paid to the orderly who calls witnesses when the hearing begins, and this fee is being openly realised. He takes not less than four or five days in deciding even an *ex-parte* case.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

27. The same paper complains of the highhanded and arbitrary conduct of Babu Dakshina Charan Sen, the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Habiganj, in dealing with parties, witnesses, and law suits in general. He always shows great impatience and harasses plaintiffs by asking them unnecessary questions when taking their depositions, often expresses himself in this way :— "There is nothing in the case, I shall dismiss it," and then throws away records, papers, etc., and drives away plaintiffs from the witness box, and as often orders the retrial of cases dismissed by him at the time of taking the first depositions. He even retries such cases as are not retriable under the law. The following cases are given in support of the above allegations :—

- (1) The case No. 22 of 1903 was first dismissed under section 204 and then resumed.
- (2) The case No. 203 of 1903 was first dismissed under section 203 and then resumed.
- (3) Case No. 21 of 1903. Plaintiff—Sachu Nath. Defendant—Radha-ballav Basak. Dakshina Babu first expressed his desire to dismiss it and then actually dismissed it, disbelieving the plaintiff's witnesses.
- (4) The case in which Ajaman Raja was the plaintiff and Brajendra Kishor Dalal was the defendant. Dakshina Babu at first refused to entertain it, and when it was more than once sent from above for trial he dismissed it.

Dakshina Babu generally practises the trick of acquitting accused persons instead of discharging them, and thus leaves no opportunity for his decisions bring criticised on appeal. It is a matter of great regret that such a man has been vested with the power of holding summary trials. He never writes any memoranda of evidence in summary proceedings, although section 355 of the Criminal Procedure Code strictly enjoins the Judge to make such memoranda, and it is a wonder how he remembers the evidence given by large numbers of witnesses over a large number of days and after long adjournments.

Dakshina Babu withdraws, changes, and corrects his orders most arbitrarily. For example, in his judgment, given on the 13th July last, in the above case, Ajman Raja *versus* Brajendra Kishor, he wrote regarding the case that it was "false." But ten days after he substituted the word "doubtful" for the word "false." The authorities are requested to institute a strict enquiry into Dakshina Babu's work.

NAVA YUG,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

28. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes as follows :—

The case of an old *chaprasi* in the Calcutta Police Court.

Mr. Abdur Rahim, Northern Presidency Magistrate, had occasion to suspend Buddhu, an old *chaprasi* of his Court of 27 years' standing, twice for neglect of duty. On the third occasion he ordered the man to retire from the service. Buddhu having applied for pension, was ordered by the Accountant-General to produce a medical certificate, as he had not completed the 30 years' service required under the rules. The medical certificate required him to serve for two years more. On his presenting himself again before Mr. Abdur Rahim, he was ordered to rejoin his service on the 5th August, but was subsequently informed that, as he had been twice suspended, the Magistrate could not take him into service. The man is therefore in a most awkward position. During his long service he has uniformly given satisfaction to his masters and has collected a great number of good certificates. It is hoped that the authorities will be pleased to take his hard case into their kind consideration and do him justice.

NAVA YUG.

29. The same paper writes as follows :—

Mr. N. N. Mitter, Honorary Presidency Magistrate.

Not only the Stipendiary Magistrates of Calcutta, but even the Honorary Magistrates, are found guilty of misuse of their powers in a multitude of cases. For the last three weeks, we have been pointing out

certain irregular proceedings of Mr. N. N. Mitter, Honorary Presidency Magistrate. We shall now cite two more instances:—(1) In the case *Mani Bibi versus Jaharmal*, in which Jaharmal was charged with criminal trespass and other offences, Mr. Mitter was one of the Honorary Magistrates. On the first day of hearing, the case was postponed for want of time. On the second day, Mr. Knight, Counsel for the complainant, wanted postponement, as all the witnesses of his client were not present in Court. This Mr. Mitter refused to grant, and he not only dismissed the case, but awarded compensation to the accused on the ground that the prosecution was a malicious one. Mr. Knight thereupon moved the High Court, which set aside Mr. Mitter's decision. (2) This was a case of criminal breach of trust. The complainant was Kunja Bihari Dey and the accused was Jnan Chandra Chandra. When the case was called on for hearing, the Magistrate, Mr. Mitter, addressing the accused, said: "I give you five minutes' time. You must make a compromise, otherwise I shall send you to jail." The accused then applied to the Chief Presidency Magistrate for transfer of his case from the file of Mr. Mitter, who, in his explanation, denied having uttered these words. But several respectable pleaders deposed that these words were actually uttered by him. The case was transferred.

30. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 9th August is sorry that Sir James LaTouche is not setting at rest the question as to whether Hindi or Urdu will be the future Court language of the United Provinces.

HITAVARTA.
Aug. 9th, 1903.

31. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 9th August says that the Munsif of Munshiganj in the Dacca district has for six times postponed the case No. 182 of 1903 in which Hara Kumar Banerjee is the plaintiff and Ram Charan Kaivarta the defendant. This he has done at the unreasonable request of the defendant. On the first four days the plaintiff was present in Court with his witnesses. It was this Munsif who dismissed the case No. 181 of 1903 on both the parties having asked for time to collect evidence. This Munsif has become notorious for his highhandedness and arbitrary proceedings. Is there nobody to check him?

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 9th, 1903.

32. The same paper learns from the *Bikas* newspaper that Babu Govinda Chandra Basak, the Sub-Judge of Dacca, behaves very badly with his amla. This does not become an old officer like Govinda Babu. The amla, although poorly paid, are still respectable people, and ought to be treated discourteously.

DACCA PRAKASH.

33. The same paper has received many complaints against the Sub-Registrar of Palang in the Dacca district. It is said that he behaves very badly with those people who come to have their deeds registered in his office. It is hoped that he will soon mend his ways.

DACCA PRAKASH.

(d)—Education.

34. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

The system introduced by Mr. Pedler, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in the selection of text-books for the Lower Primary, Upper Primary, and Middle Scholarship examinations, has met with opposition in all quarters. We propose to notice two most important points:—

(1) The list of text-books approved by the Text-book Committee is published in the *Calcutta Gazette* in January, and text-books are selected from this list, and from other previous or subsequent lists, in the October following. Now, the books named in the list published in January were submitted to the Text-book Committee at least a year before. So it is clear that the authors, whose books are at last selected, have to wait for about two years before they can expect to derive any profit from the sale of their books. While, on the one hand, the fortunate authors, whose books are adopted as text-books, are compelled to pass a long period of painful suspense, the disappointment of those whose books are approved by the Text-book Committee but are not selected as text-books, may well be imagined. Government ought not to allow such irregularities to continue, and measures should be taken for their speedy removal.

(2) It had never been the practice with the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to name text-books in Mathematics, History, Geography, and Science. Only text-books in Literature were fixed, and school managers had the option given them of selecting the text-books in the other subjects from the authorised list. This system had the sanction of such a veteran educationist as Sir Alfred Croft, and it produced the best results. But now the opposite course has been adopted, and discontent among school managers and guardians of boys is very general. We beg to draw the attention of Government to this matter also.

HITAVARTA,
Aug. 9th, 1903.

35. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 9th August prays the Government of the United Provinces to allow the Committee of the Bareilly College further time to raise one and half a lakh of rupees, which has been made an indispensable condition of its receiving grant-in-aid from the Local Government. The first blow of the University Commission has fallen upon the Bareilly College. It seems that it will lose its existence and, along with it, the Agra and Meerut Colleges also will cease to exist. When these colleges are gone, there will remain the only Musalman College at Aligarh and the Canning College of Lucknow. One can easily imagine the inconvenience to which the students of the United Provinces will be put in that case. Sir James LaTouche has not, up to the present moment, expressed his views regarding the recommendations of the Universities Commission. It is to be hoped that he will remove all the obstacles which the Commission has sought to throw in the path of high education.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
July 28th, 1903.

36. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 28th July draws the attention of the local municipal authorities to the insanitary condition of the sweetmeat shops in Burdwan town, and to the fact that the sweetmeats in those shops being exposed for sale in uncovered receptacles, are covered with dust, and are thus rendered unwholesome. The shopkeepers should be required to keep the articles within glass cases.

BIKAS,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

37. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 4th August writes as follows:—
It is widely known that Dr. Kshirod Chandra Ray and his compounders behave most rudely towards the patients who attend the Barisal Charitable Hospital. The patients and their friends are shocked at their shameful conduct. It is only the poor and the helpless who generally go to the hospital for medical treatment. But those patients who cannot pay the compounders well get neither proper medicines nor diet. Cases are not rare in which the ailments of the patients who are unable to satisfy the greed of the compounders get worse for want of proper medicines and diet. The truth of this statement will come out on enquiry. Another serious point is that the medicines kept in the hospital are used not only for patients who attend it daily, but for private patients of the compounders and the doctor as well. If the stock of medicines in the hospital be examined with a view to ascertain how much has been consumed for the private practice of the compounders and doctors, the truth of our statement will become clear. Medicines are kept in such a slovenly manner that they greatly deteriorate in quality. A friend once jocosely observed that even arsenic from the Charitable Dispensary fails to kill a man. This deterioration may also be due to the medicines being taken by the compounders for their own use and the empty phials being then filled with other substances. The diet is prepared very badly. We believe that all these irregularities are due to the indifference of Dr. Kshirod Chandra Ray, who almost always remains away and pays little or no attention to his legitimate work.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th August is glad to see that the Commissioners of the Mymensingh Municipality have unanimously protested against the Government proposal to make over the management of the local water-works to a Committee separate from and independent of

the Commissioners. The resolution which they have recorded in this connection is as follows:—

"In the opinion of the Commissioners it is not desirable that the management of the water-works should be made over to a separate Committee, especially when they, before the receipt of the Government letter, had already appointed a Water-works Select Committee consisting of the Civil Surgeon, the District Engineer, and some other Commissioners.

"Resolved also that a letter be drafted embodying the views of the Commissioners and laid before a special meeting."

There is no necessity for a separate Water-works Committee. The Magistrate, though he is not a member of the Municipal Committee, is still the authority who controls all the proceedings of the Municipality. The Civil Surgeon is always nominated by Government as a Commissioner. As for the District Engineer, he, too, may be nominated in the same way, instead of leaving his appointment to the Committee to the uncertainties of a popular election. Government, it is to be hoped, will not insist on the management of the local water-works being entrusted to a separate Committee.

39. A correspondent writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th August complaining that the water of the Betravati (Bethna) river near Nabharan, a station on the Bengal Central Railway, is polluted every year by the jute cultivators steeping jute in it. This is a most objectionable practice, and to it is due the widespread unhealthiness of many months. Police interference from time to time has hitherto produced very little effect. It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate of Jessore and the Subdivisional Officer of Bongong will take such steps as will effectually prevent jute-steeping in the river.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 6th, 1903.

40. Babu Rajkrishna Pal, the editor of the *Mahajanbandhu*, [Barabazar, Calcutta], writes to the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August that people going to the Calcutta Municipal Office to take out licenses suffer great hardship there. If they go at 10 A.M., they have to wait till 5 P.M. The writings on the walls of the license office corroborate in bold letters, written by many of these harassed people, the truth of this statement.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

41. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 10th August has the following in its English columns:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 10th, 1903.

"The Indians are outlanders in their own country."

The Calcutta Improvement Scheme is still hanging fire, as will appear from the following extracts from the report of the proceedings of the third meeting of the Special Committee appointed by the Calcutta Corporation to discuss and report on the Improvement Scheme prepared by the Government:—

(1) That in the opinion of the Committee it is an essential part of any scheme for the improvement of Calcutta that wide thoroughfares should be opened in the suburbs. They accordingly considered that a scheme should be drawn up for the opening of a number of roads in the suburbs, of not less than 60 feet; that for the northern part of the town similar provision should be made in a tract north of Tallah on the understanding that the jurisdiction of the Corporation be extended so as to cover this area. The Committee were of opinion that the extension of the city eastwards was not practicable, owing to the unhealthiness of the locality and its proximity to the Salt Water Lakes.

As regards the construction of roads in the city proper, the Committee were of opinion that it would not be desirable to widen existing roads, (1) owing to the excessive cost of acquiring existing buildings, (2) because of the loss in revenue to the Corporation which would be incurred in the rates and taxes on the demolition of these buildings, and (3) owing to the fact that the widening of existing thoroughfares would, more or less, leave untouched many of the *bustees* and other insanitary spots in the city. The Committee were of opinion that altogether new main thoroughfares should be constructed, and that a scheme on these lines should be prepared.

After some discussion, it was also agreed that the question of the improvement of the *bustees* in the town should form part of the scheme for the improvement of Calcutta. The Committee considered that a scheme should be prepared dealing, ward by ward, with the several *bustees* in the city,

providing for the demolition of all existing insanitary huts and the construction of proper streets and drains in each of these areas.

There is no denying the fact that the scheme, provisionally prepared and submitted for public discussion by the Government of India, has been found impracticable, considering the heavy cost it will entail. Be that as it may, we do not propose to enter into any consideration of the merits of the scheme itself at this stage. What we propose to do is to bring to the notice of Lord Curzon that His Excellency has not taken into confidence the party most vitally interested in the matter, viz., the Indian section of the Calcutta public. We would go further and say, the whole Indian public is more or less interested in the well-being of Calcutta as the metropolis of India. The grant that the India Government proposes to allot for the proposed improvement is justified on the score of its being an imperial city. Nobody can question the appropriateness of the grant of money from imperial funds for this laudable object. But whatever may be its importance, which nobody denies, as an imperial city, it goes without saying, the Indians who form the largest bulk of its vast population have the first right to be heard, inasmuch as it is they who will be called upon to bear the lion's share of the cost, amounting to crores of rupees. No taxation without representation is a fundamental principle of political economy, and it is suprisingly strange that Lord Curzon, nursed and brought up in the cradle of the British constitution and with his commendable solicitude to ascertain Indian public opinion on all matters of supreme importance, should have trampled under foot that very grand principle, the glorification of which is one of the missions of his life, as it should be of every true-born Britisher having genuine Saxon blood in his veins. But we have fallen on evil times. Whoever sets his foot on Indian soil becomes a changed man as if by the ordinance of an evil genius ruling over our destiny. Upon no other supposition can we account for Lord Curzon's ignoring Indian public opinion in a matter of such supreme importance to them. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Trades' Association have been consulted, but the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, which are recognised by the Government as representing the different sections of the native community and, as such, whose opinions have always been sought for by the Government in all matters of grave importance, have not, for some unknown reason, been thought worthy of being consulted in this matter, though it is an admitted fact that the constituents of these public bodies will have to bear the brunt of the cost. It is only possible in India that those who have to pay the piper have no right to call for the tune. That such an un-English procedure is being countenanced by a Government over which Lord Curzon has the honour to preside, is what pains us the most. We have no objection to allow the Europeans to have their say in the matter, but it must not be forgotten that from the very nature of their position in this country, their opinions cannot and should not be allowed to carry an overwhelming influence in determining the line of policy to be adopted. A European can have no abiding interest in the country—he is a mere bird of passage—he is to-day at Calcutta, to-morrow at Bombay, the day after on the high seas, and the next time you hear from him is perhaps from Kamtschatka or from Peru. He knows, though he may have sown the wind, he and his sons will not reap the storm. Such being the case, he does not unoften give his opinions in such matters with a light heart. Under such circumstances, the permanent resident rate-payers of Calcutta should have a potential voice in determining the scope of the proposed improvements, imperatively necessary, if the city is to retain its name as well as its position as the first city in the Empire.

Are we crying in the wilderness? Is it too late to expect Lord Curzon to rectify the mistake he has committed by ignoring the native community altogether? His Excellency is well known for his love of fair play, and we hope and trust His Lordship will yet do justice to the Indian rate-payers and give them an opportunity to express their opinions through recognised channels. It is not obligatory upon his Excellency to accept such opinions because he had sought for them. His Excellency will have the last word, so we do not quite see what particular inconveniences there may arise should these public bodies be consulted along with the Associations representing European trade and

commerce. It is simply out of question to ask the Government to ignore these Associations as well, thereby meting out equal treatment to all. The Chamber of Commerce is all-powerful. No Indian Viceroy can afford to lose the good wishes of the Chamber. It must be kept in good humour at any cost. The Calcutta citizens have been deprived of the long-enjoyed boon of self-government simply to propitiate the European merchants and traders of Calcutta who, of all things, have in their power the gift of a statue to a retiring Viceroy—a bait that very few mortals can resist. Let us hope Lord Curzon will prove an exception to the rule, and muster courage to rectify the mistake above alluded to.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

42. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 4th August says that excellent arrangements have been made by Mr. Bell in the Barisal Settlement office. But it is doubtful whether any good will come of the huge settlement work undertaken at great expense. The people will be impoverished by the burden they will have to bear. What precautions, it may be asked, are proposed to be taken for the prevention of acts of lawlessness that are going on in the mufassal?

BIKAS,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

43. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August has received many complaints against the officers attached to the Patichara Ward's Estate under the Dinajpur Collectorate. The correspondents making the complaints say that the new Assistant Manager of the estate has dismissed many old men from service and put his own men in their places. It is also said that he has turned the local *Kali mandir* into a stable and poultry house, and that he has given out that he has been sent by the Deputy Commissioner to realise Rs. 54,000 as *nazzar* or bonus and show an increase of Rs. 14,000 in the rental of the estate. The work of leasing out *chakran* jagirs to highest bidders has begun. But if a new lessee fails to obtain possession of his land against the old tenant, he is asked to go to the law court to have his case decided, but the *nazzar* paid by him is not returned if he desires to relinquish the lease for fear of being ruined by litigation. Many lands are in this way being put to the highest bid settlement over and over again. The condition to which Garba Majhi, of Ichha mauza within the local khas mahal, has been reduced, fully illustrates the prevailing state of things. One correspondent gives a thrilling account of Garba Majhi's case. The raiyats of the Paturhia mauza have under the advice of the Manager of the khas mahal, boldly refused to bid for any land. But Rs. 4,000 have been realised from the less courageous raiyats of the Igarpur mauza. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

44. Referring to the recent outrage committed by British soldiers upon Indians at the Baldi railway station, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th August gives from the *Tribune* a brief account of the case and writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

We are surprised to hear that neither the Railway authorities nor the Railway Police have done anything to bring the culprits to justice. The Indians are an inoffensive and emasculated people. Moreover, the fear of exemplary punishment prevented the other passengers from coming to help Babu Sitaram when attacked by British soldiers. We have every right to expect that Lord Curzon will be pleased to order a sifting enquiry. Will not the fair name of Government be permitted to remain intact by Lord Curzon's and Lord Kitchener's orders being followed in practice by British soldiers?

45. A trustworthy correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 7th August complains of the following oppressions witnessed by him at the Sealdah station on the 1st August last:—

SAMAY,
Aug. 7th 1903.

(1) Two ignorant Biharis, named respectively Tapsi and Dhanraj, paid the Ticket-Babu Rs. 2-8 for two tickets for Chuadanga, each worth Re. 1-1-6

But the balance was not returned to them. The balance was disgorged only when the correspondent and another passenger went with them to the ticket-Babu.

(2) The passage in front of the ticket-room has evidently been provided with a view to prevent overcrowding. But this object is defeated by the men stationed to guard the passage allowing anybody who pays them something to get in from the egress-side.

(3) The coolies regularly fleece the passengers. The authorities are requested to enquire into these matters.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 7th, 1903

46. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Madhusudan Datta, Post Office Bahin, Dinajpur, complains of the loss, on the way, of one of five packages with which he travelled on the 13th and 14th July last from the Raiganj to the Alamdanga station, by No. 71 Up and No. 61 Down trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The station-master of Alamdanga and the higher Railway authorities were duly informed of the matter, but nothing further has as yet been heard in the matter. The number of the luggage receipt of the five packages was 51, and the lost package contained property worth about Rs. 25.

(2) A certain Parbati Nath Chatterji complains of the want of a suitable waiting-room at the Halsa station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The tin shed on one side of the down platform is open on three sides and is therefore unable to serve the purpose of a waiting-room. Again, on the 20th and 23rd July last, No. 1 Up and No. 2 Down trains, respectively, contained only two third class carriages and no intermediate class carriages. Such paucity of carriages causes the greatest inconvenience and hardship to the large number of litigants, who daily travel by the trains from the Halsa and Poradaha stations to Kushtia and back again. On the abovementioned days the correspondent counted not less than 18 or 19 passengers in each compartment. Will the Railway authorities do nothing to remove this scandal? If people travelling inter-class with third class tickets can be punished, with what justice can people having inter-class tickets be compelled to travel third class? Why are tickets sold in excess of the accommodation supplied? The attention of the rulers of the country is drawn to the matter.

(3) A correspondent says that a train on the Bengal Central Railway contains only one inter-class carriage, and that many passengers holding inter-class tickets are obliged to travel third class on account of this insufficiency of accommodation. Why are not such passengers refunded the excess of their inter-class fares over third class fares?

(4) Purnendu Mohan Sehanavis says that on the 15th June, Messrs. Narsing Das Tansuk Das sent five bags of sugar and flour under bill of lading No. 165, from the Armanighat to the Mogalhat station in the name of Meksidas Sani, of Balachhatbandar; but at the latter station only four bags were received. More than a month ago a barrel filled with two and-a-half maunds of cocoanut oil belonging to the same party was similarly lost. The District Traffic Superintendent of the Eastern Bengal State Railway was informed of the occurrences, but to no effect. The attention of the Bengal Government is drawn to the subject, because losses like the above are frequent and ruinous to tradesmen.

HITAVADI.

47. Referring to the case of a lady missed on the East Indian Railway

A lady missed on the East Indian Railway.

(see Report on Native Papers of the 8th August 1903, paragraph 48), the same paper has received a correspondence to the effect that the husband of the lady has not found her at Hathras, because, before his arrival there, she received a money-order from her father and started for her father's house in the Karpasdanga village in the Nadia district. The husband has returned from Hathras without lodging any complaint with the police. The editor promises to help the authorities in ascertaining the name and whereabouts of the lady, if they cannot be ascertained by local enquiry at Hathras, and expresses wonder at no case having been brought against the ticket-Collector of Hathras from the lady's side.

48. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August hears that the East Indian Railway authorities have introduced a printed form in which intending purchasers of

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

A railway complaint. monthly tickets will have to apply for them by answering the queries contained therein. Many persons, specially those who are illiterate, will be greatly inconvenienced by the innovation. Another source of serious inconvenience to passengers is the discontinuance of the practice of ringing bells just before the starting of a train from any station. The Railway Company is morally bound to look to the comforts of those to whom all their affluence is due.

49. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 9th August complains that the third class carriages of the Bengal Provincial Railway are most miserably constructed. They are mostly open carriages and their roofs are full of cracks, so that the sufferings of the passengers, during the present rainy season, may very well be imagined. Most of the passengers, as might be expected, belong to the third class, and the income of the Railway Company is almost wholly derived from them. It is to be hoped therefore that the present Manager of the Company will see that their inconvenience is removed as soon as possible.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Aug. 9th, 1903.

50. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th August writes as follows:—

English trade versus Native life.

Mr. Bourdillon said at Berhampore that the river-channels should be kept deep to facilitate the transport of jute to Calcutta. His Honour also said that an expenditure of five lakhs of rupees would be incurred for that purpose, and that the scheme of deepening the Bhagirathi would be postponed for the present. In other words, the health and comfort of the people must give way to English trade.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 11th 1903.

It is our belief—a belief which, as we may note in passing, is shared by many eminent doctors—that by the deepening of the Bhagirathi and the consequent setting free of that holy stream throughout South Bengal, the ravages of malaria may be lessened. Sixty years ago, all the villages from Azimgunge and Murshidabad to Calcutta and Howrah were populous, human abodes—villages which are to-day a scene of utter desolation, where the silence of death is broken only by the howls of prowling packs of jackals.

It is because the current of the Bhagirathi is not strong that the Churni, the Anjane, the Jumuna, the Saraswati, the Ichhamati, the Bhairab, the Kapotaksha, the Vetravati, the Nabhanga, the Madhumati, and other streams are silted up. Their beds are silted up and their stagnant water is covered with aquatic plants. The water-courses in the country are all blocked up and the water-level has fallen. As a result of all this, malaria, dysentery, and cholera have obtained a permanent footing in Bengal.

But has any serious effort been ever made by Government to improve the health of the province? There was appointed, it is true, a Malaria Commission—a Commission on which the late Raja Degumber Mitter sat. His prophecy, little heeded at the time, has now proved true to the letter, and yet no efforts are being made to give effect to his proposals. The number of foul tanks has not become fewer, there have been constructed no channels for the passage of water through embankments, rivers have not been dredged, marshes have not been drained, jungles have not been cleared, and wholesome drinking water has not been provided. But Municipalities have been established in every village and many new taxes have been imposed, and there are the oppression in the realisation of the road-cess and the chaukidari tax and the sucking dry of the people's life-blood by laws and law-courts. The people are becoming weak by starvation or semi-starvation and are dying like flies. Is this Government? Is this protecting the people?

The Government engineers urge that various circumstances have combined to render the permanent deepening of the channel of the Bhagirathi an extremely difficult, nay, a well-nigh impossible work. There is, they urge, the vast mass of sand which is washed down every year by the Ajay and the Mayurakshi. Again, the land in North and Middle Bengal slopes down from the north-west to the south-east. Kutwa and Meherpur, Kandi and Murshidabad are situated in comparatively elevated tracts. But for the

Lalitakundi embankment, the stream of the Bhagirathi might have flowed through Middle Bengal. At present, the bed of the Bhagirathi is higher than the bed of the Padma. All this that they say may be true. But we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the English, who have, by excavating canals, rendered fertile the high and sterile "rea" land in the Punjab, and who have manifested marvellous engineering skill in the water-channels constructed by them at Hurdwar, Pereraya, Tansar and elsewhere, are unable to convert fertile and well-watered Bengal into an earthly paradise.

The existence of Calcutta, its port, and its trade depends upon the stream of the Bhagirathi remaining free. The villages of Bengal will again become populous and flourishing human dwellings, if that stream can be made to flow freely again. Calcutta is now like a golden lamp burning in the midst of a vast cremation ground. But no golden lamp can burn for ever on a cremation ground. The English Government, we own, exists in this country mainly for the sake of trade, and we know that it is for the development of English trade that the Ranaghat-Bhagawangola line has already been opened, and the Magra-Azimganj line will be opened in time. But what profit will be derived from railways worked in a desolate country? And who will raise jute, linseed, castor-seed, and gram if Bengal is depopulated? We thank Mr. Bourdillon for telling the truth, but we are none the less alarmed at his telling it. The hen that lays golden eggs should not be killed.

(h)—General.

AL PUNCH,
Aug. 1st, 1903.

51. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 1st August does not understand why the Postal Department has issued a circular to the effect that senders of value-payable parcels will

A postal question. have to give satisfactory proof of the fact that they are sending the parcels with the full consent of the payees. A certain commission is taken by the Postal Department on the presentation of each such parcel, and its refusal by the payee does not in any way affect its income. If the sender of a value-payable parcel is required to obtain the consent of the payee, the sender of an unpaid letter, too, should, upon the same principle, be required to obtain the permission of the addressee.

SANJIVANI.

52. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th August complains that only Europeans and Eurasians will be allowed to compete at the examination to be held for the selection of candidates for the four vacancies

Partiality of Government for
Europeans and Eurasians.

that will occur in the Opium Department. The Indians have been excluded from the examination altogether. The selected candidates will be appointed on salaries ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 600. The Indians are to be harassed like cats and dogs in the British colonies, and are to be deprived of various appointments in their mother country. Did Government feel no shame when it made those rules?

SANJIVANNI.

53. Referring to the proposal to saddle India with the cost of the South African garrison, the same paper remarks as follows:—

The cost of the South African
garrison.

We fail to see what led Mr. Brodrick to make the proposal. It would appear as if India had been threatened with some danger from without or some serious mutiny in the country itself. We in India are aware of no such calamity. What justification is there then for this proposed increase of India's burden? Mr. Brodrick ought to have known that before the Welby Commission the Governor-General and most other high officials were unanimous in their declarations that the burden of military expenditure on India was already sufficiently heavy. He ought to have known further that the Commission went so far as to recommend that part of the expenditure should be met from the British Treasury. Moreover, it was wrong policy to declare publicly that the burden of expenditure for the South African garrison would fall on India without first consulting the Government of India.

Now as to the argument advanced by Mr. Brodrick in support of his proposal, it must be remarked that a more selfish and fallacious one was never before broached. He said that, in the event of an attack upon India,

it would be necessary to send troops from South Africa to India, and India should therefore bear a portion of the cost of the South African garrison. Following the same line of argument it might, with equal justice, be claimed that Australia ought to bear a portion of the cost, inasmuch as, in the event of war breaking out in that country, troops from India, as well as from South Africa, might have to be sent there. But Mr. Brodrick would certainly not have the hardihood to demand that Australia should bear a portion of the cost on account of the troops in India or South Africa. It cannot be said that India is one of the worst defended countries in the British Empire. On the contrary, during the last forty years, India has sent troops to Egypt, the Soudan, Abyssynia, South Africa, China, and Somaliland, and to some of these on more occasions than one, in numbers not inconsiderable, and for periods by no means short. Has the British Government borne any portion of the cost of the troops sent from India on numberless occasions for the defence of the Empire? The fact, however, is that a garrison must be located in South Africa, and the question arises, where is the money to come from? Mr. Brodrick says—Let India bleed. It is not very easy to raise money from South Africa, nor is it easier to approach the British tax-payer. Lord Curzon is not altogether free from blame in this connection. The so-called "Prosperity Budgets" of His Excellency have produced all this mischief. Are not British Ministers aware how many useful works have been stopped in India for want of money? Are there none to remind them that at this moment there are millions of Indians subsisting upon one meal a day? What a pity that Mr. Brodrick's eyes should fall upon what the Government of India has collected by beggaring the people, by depriving the sons and daughters of India of education, by denying them justice, by selling opium to the Chinese people and thereby causing their ruin, and by opening grog-shops at the very doors of the Indians! It is useless for Lord Curzon now to indite long despatches. The mischief has already been done, and little hope now remains. The only redeeming feature is that all distinguished persons, including Lord Ripon, Sir Charles Dilke, and Dadabhai Naoroji, were unanimous in opposing Mr. Brodrick's proposal. Let us wait and see how the British Government finally decides the question.

54. A correspondent writing from Rangoon to the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August says that it was only six months ago that Mr. Charles Sanderson, the late Deputy Superintendent of the Government Central Press,

Mr. Sanderson of the Burma Government Press.

was transferred to the Burma Government Press, but during this short period of time he has made himself notorious at the latter place by the hard and unjust treatment of subordinates which characterised his career at the former place. He has mulcted V. Punya Swami in the sum of Rs. 50, suspended Krishna Swami, the cashier, dismissed Kannan Babu, the time-keeper, reduced the salaries of Mune Swami and Sibsankar Naidu by Rs. 2 each and of the new cashier by Rs. 50, and done many other unjust acts. Since February last he has been working his men till 8 P.M. every day, not excepting even Sundays. Over and above all this, he treats them to such sweet words as "damp," "scoundrel," etc. It is hoped that the authorities will soon bring the man to his senses.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

55. The same paper says that a certain Mr. Thomson, a student of Cooper's Hill College, has been appointed Examiner at the grade examination of the signallers of the Telegraph Department. The manner of his

Grievances of native signallers in the Telegraph Department.

examination is so whimsical and arbitrary that old and experienced signallers are getting plucked, whilst new and inexperienced men are passing. He tries to correct his mistakes if he can detect them, but he seldom detects his mistakes. Great partiality is shown to Eurasians and Anglo-Indians. The rule is that no one should be promoted without an examination, but a certain A. J. Falloon was recently promoted to the superior grade without any examination. A *sahib* gets Rs. 20 as house allowance where a native gets only Rs. 5. *Sahibs* may easily go to the general scale, whilst it is extremely difficult for natives to get transferred to it. It is hoped that the Director-General of Telegraphs will soon put an end to this invidious difference in the treatment of natives and *sahibs*.

HITAVADI.

HITAVARTA.
Aug. 9th, 1903.

56. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 9th August is glad that Lord Curzon's tenure of office has been extended by two years. It is to be hoped that His Excellency will devote a portion of his additional term to the question of separating the Judicial and Executive branches of the administration. We have reasons to believe that the combination of the two branches is at the root of all the evils of which we often complain.

III.—LEGISLATION.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

57. Referring to the Bengal Settled Estates Bill, the *Kasipur Navasi* [Barisal] of the 5th August writes as follows:—
The Bengal Settled Estates Bill. Should any zamindar unfortunately have more sons than one, the Hindu law makes all the sons equal sharers of the zamindari. There are some zamindars who believe that by this division of their zamindaris their status and influence will in time disappear. They are of opinion that a law should be passed which should make the eldest-born son sole heir to the zamindari and the other sons only entitled to maintenance. No father can really wish to have such a law passed merely for the sake of preserving the prestige of the family. A zamindar having an income of four *lakhs* of rupees will have to spend one *lakh* to deprive his other sons of their shares in the zamindari, while the eldest son will merely have right of possession, and the zamindari will remain undivided only for two generations. A man in his senses would certainly not come under the operation of such a law.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

58. Referring to the Bengal Settled Estates Bill, the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 5th August remarks that the Bill, if passed into law, will do very little good beyond supplying Government with still another source of income. If the amount of fees payable to Government had not been fixed so high, there would have been some chance of its being looked upon with favour. The proposed law will appear in a most unfavourable light contrasted with the existing Hindu law.

BASUMATI,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

59. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th August publishes the following criticism of the Bengal Settled Estates Bill:—
The Bengal Settled Estates Bill. According to the Bill, a zamindar who has settled his estate will have to depend on the pleasure of Government at every step in alienations, transfers, etc., concerning it. In short, owners of settled estates will be completely in the power of the Government. And for securing this supreme privilege, the zamindar will have to pay, at the very beginning, a registration fee of one-fourth of the annual income of his estate. Let us now trace the history of the principle of binding down properties in a fixed line in England, Europe, and America. The principle of succession by primogeniture, although much favoured at one time, is now disliked in England and Scotland. It is hostile to sound principles of political economy and sociology, and has the effect of bringing poverty to the vast majority of people by binding down property in the hands of a small minority. Circulation of wealth is more desirable than its stagnation. The settled estates of Great Britain, after remaining such for six centuries, have to a great extent become unsettled, and to this end a number of Acts of Parliament passed in Queen Victoria's reign, especially Lord Cairne's Act passed in 1882, did the greatest service. And it may be easily foreseen that within the next fifty years the change will become complete.

In Europe, all the great historians say that although it is natural for men to desire to bind down their estates in one line of issue, yet the oppressions, hardships, and social losses which such a system gives rise to are causing it to be forsaken in every part of the world in spite of its prevalence for six centuries, as if a majority of the nations of the world have entered into a conspiracy to shake it off. When feudalism ruled Europe, the feudal lords were absolutely in the power of their masters, and wherever a feudal lord died without leaving an heir behind him, his whole estate passed to his master, the king. But conditions of life are now greatly changed in Europe, and the kings there have no longer any personal interest in maintaining the

system of primogeniture, which is therefore gradually falling down within their states. In the German Empire, it has ceased to exist everywhere, except in a few old princely families. In France the Code Napoleon has abolished the system of mortmain, and even antiquated and conservative Spain has followed the example of France in this matter. If you say that the wealth and prosperity of Great Britain owes its origin to primogeniture, look at America, where you will see a nation whose strength and prosperity are greater even than those of Great Britain, and have astonished the whole world.

In conclusion, the writer says that the system of primogeniture is undesirable both from the social and economic point of view. It is only for the preservation of kingdoms, a consideration entirely political, that independent sovereigns have to follow the system in their own families, and the system can apply to such sovereigns only and to no other. The father is responsible for every one of the sons, who owe their existence to him.

The Hindu *Dharmasastras* have therefore ordained that all the sons of a man will equally succeed to his properties, and that if any one of them dies within his lifetime, his share will go to his son, that is to say, to the grandson of the *propositus*. The *Dharmasastras* are opposed to the principle of succession in a fixed line. The right of disposing of ancestral property by will is a creation of the British Government and is repugnant to the *Sastras*, and it is no reason that because this right has been established, another anti-Sastric rule should also be established in the country. Besides this, every man with a grain of sense can see that it does not become a sovereign, who comes from another country, professes a different religion, and has nothing in common with those he governs, to establish such an anti-Sastric principle. If the Bill is passed, the power of the Government, that is to say, of the British officials, will immensely increase, and none but a person blinded by selfishness will fail to see this.

60. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th August has the following in its English columns:—

The Bengal Settled Estates Bill.

Things are not what they seem. We have paused considerably and pondered over it before pronouncing any opinion on the Settled Estates Bill. And after due deliberation we are inclined to say that such a law is scarcely necessary at the present time. There are people who want something like the Law of Primogeniture here on the ground that as the inheritance of money means ruin to the soul and mind in this country, the fewer the persons who possess money the better for us. This is an argument against accumulation of wealth in a country where there is so little of public spirit, and it is for this very reason that we consider the proposed measure one of questionable utility so far as our society is concerned. The preservation of aristocracy is a necessity only when the welfare of the nation is bound up with the welfare of the aristocracy. Here, in our country possession of wealth is a sort of license as it were for wasting away one's substance and doing all sorts of mean things that only bring discredit upon the society. If the few Houses whose protection seems to be the ostensible object of the law were to collapse to-morrow, we think nobody would think of shedding a pious drop except on the sentimental ground that the Houses with such and such traditions are to be heard of no more.

Without going into the details of the Bill we contend for the sake of principle that the Government, which is only the representative of the people, should not be so interested in the perpetuation of an institution whose importance to the society is doubtful. Accumulation of money has hitherto proved only a source of mischief to the society, and we cannot persuade ourselves to assent to a measure whose object seems to be to further countenance that accumulation. Where money is locked up in Government securities, it matters very little to the society whether a certain amount is divided amongst two men or three men. On the contrary, in the present state of education amongst our landed class, the less money they possess the greater will be their tendency for sowing wild oats. We are spared the necessity of imputing any motive to the Government, because we see that they have been misled and no case has been made out against the present state of things. The institution, as it at present stands, might be bad, but what is the necessity of making it worse? In a

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 10th, 1908.

country where, as soon as a rich man dies, a number of forged wills appear in no time, like mushrooms, we are not for introducing further complexity into the present law of succession. What we once more urge for the consideration of the Government is that they need not be much exercised about the perpetuation of an institution which has lost its sanctity, its traditions, its usefulness, nay its ornamental purpose. We do not know how we can fairly ask the sons of a rich man to waive their claims in favour of their eldest brother when we see that the sacrifice is not likely to do anybody any good. Already we know of a House where the enlightened and educated younger brothers have shown a laudable spirit of self-sacrifice for the fancied good of the ancient House, but the result, so far as we know, has been to pave the way for the ruin of the House. Under these circumstances we shall ask the Government to think thrice before importing this new law of succession into the country. What is sauce for the gander is not sauce for the goose.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Aug. 4th, 1903.

61. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 4th August says that about 25 or 30 families of Bagdis, Doms, Haris, and Muchis in village Jatsuti within the Kandi subdivision are suffering from distress. They cannot obtain any employment, and paddy and rice are becoming dearer and almost unprocurable. Government should take pity upon the distressed people.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

62. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 5th August publishes the following reports received from its correspondents:—
Dora.—Drought has destroyed the paddy crop. Many people are living on herbs and vegetables.

Keshiarhi.—The villages under the Keshiarhi police outpost have been thrown into severe distress by repeated failures of crops. The cultivators are over head and ears in debt. This year also the prospect of the paddy crop is extremely unsatisfactory owing to drought. *Mahajans* have stopped making advances. The day-labourers, who form the vast majority of the population, are finding no work. Many people are living on vegetables.

Chandrakona.—The prospect of the paddy crop is unsatisfactory. Most of the paddy fields remain uncultivated. The market price of coarse rice has risen to 8 seers per rupee. The distress is severe.

Samsabad, pargana Gumgarh.—Repeated failures of crops since the year 1307 (B. S.) have brought to an end every resource of the people. The distress is grave. The attention of Government is drawn to the matter.

Narayangarh.—Drought has ruined every prospect of a good crop. Famine has begun.

Mahishadal.—The condition of Mahishadal is serious. The prospect of the crop is extremely unsatisfactory. Many people are starving.

Garhbeta.—Drought is destroying the paddy crop. Repeated failures of crops have made the cultivators destitute. The distress is severe.

Mohar, Sabanga.—Good showers wanted. Prospect of crops unsatisfactory. The distress is severe.

Tamluk.—Rain wanted. Cultivation at a standstill. Price of rice rising. Famine certain.

The editor says that recently he travelled over 24 miles from Midnapore town to Narajol and saw the condition of the fields with his own eyes. Most of the fields lie uncultivated on account of the severe drought. Poor cultivators are trying to irrigate a few fields with water drawn from the low lands. The *aus* and *awali* paddy crops have been destroyed. Poor men and women are gathering the seed of the *syama* grass in the hope of saving themselves and their dear little ones from starvation. The District Magistrate is prayed to help the poor people.

MEDINI BANDHAV.

63. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Deputy Collector of Tamluk has ordered that all immovable properties belonging to the inhabitants of the Doro pargana which were attached for default in paying revenue, and which are at present in charge of village amins

Treatment of some people of the Doro pargana in the Midnapore district,

and chaukidars, should be sent to head-quarters at Tamluk if the defaulters do not pay their revenues within five or six days. Do the authorities mean to sell the properties of the poor people in this time of severe distress?

64. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th August writes as follows:—

Prospect of famine in Bengal.

Bengal seems to be again threatened with famine. Frightful reports of the impending calamity come pouring in from all quarters. Already there have been instances of alarming distress, including violence committed by famished wretches, death from starvation and utter despair in many places. The situation seems to be really in the highest degree alarming. Government often regards accounts of distress published in native papers as exaggerated and consequently pays little heed to them. But when the fell visitation comes with all its attendant horrors, it is then, and not till then, that Government realises the situation. Even our Viceroy then keeps looking at the sky and sheds bitter tears of anguish. As the situation is really alarming, we implore Government to be ready beforehand to meet the calamity.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

65. A correspondent from Mallarpur in the Birbhum district writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th August.—

Scarcity in Birbhum.

There have been no rains yet in this quarter. The atmosphere is dusty and the paddy seedlings are dying away. The district is inhabited principally by labourers and cultivators, most of whom are in a helpless condition. Thefts are very common. Rice is selling at 14 seers per rupee, a seer being equivalent to 58 tolas. Government should open relief works for the preservation of the lives of the people.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 6th, 1903.

66. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August writes as follows:—

Distress in some villages in the Birbhum district.

It would be no exaggeration to say that this year there has been no rainfall in the Birbhum district. Cultivation is entirely stopped in Fatepur, Bahina, Amba, Damba, and other villages near the Mallarpur railway station. All the paddy plants have been destroyed by the sun, so that there is no longer any hope of securing a good crop even if rain falls. Cultivators have no stores of paddy in their houses. *Mahajans* have stopped making advances. Farmers have dismissed their servants. Day-labourers are getting no work. Some people are living on the sale of ghutim stones, but these stones also have become rare on account of the drought and their price has gone down in the market. Starvation stares the poor in the face. The market price of unhusked rice is 16 *kancha* seers per rupee. An inhabitant of the Paharbat village and his wife have committed suicide after three days' starvation, and another man, an inhabitant of the Talonga village, attempted to commit suicide. All sorts of crime have increased. Early relief is required.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 9th, 1903.

67. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August says that at most places in Bengal there has been almost no cultivation.

Impending famine in Bengal.

The tanks have almost dried up, the seedlings of paddy are withering away, and the roads are full of dust. The outlook is most gloomy. The Midnapore correspondent writes that severe distress prevails in many villages within the jurisdiction of the Narayangarh police-station. Labourers get no work. Some are living upon one meal a day, that too being insufficient. Others have nothing to eat except seeds of the *syama* grass. As yet no rain has fallen.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

68. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th August says that on the 4th August last Babu Keder Nath

Distress in a village in the Bankura district.

Banerji, the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Bishnupur in the Bankura district, went to the *kutcherri* of Babu Jogendra Nath Sinha Dev Roy, zamindar, to inquire into takavi applications, and was so much struck by the poverty of the inhabitants of Dhansimla and the neighbouring villages that he helped many of them from his own pocket. He gave two pice to a man named Biru Paramanik of the Dhansimla village who had eaten nothing for twenty-four hours. The man bought a quantity of fried rice with the two pice, boiled it with $4\frac{1}{2}$ seers of water and appeased his hunger with the gruel thus prepared.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

69. The same paper says that distress has become severe in the Majir-danga village in the Bankura district. Repeated failures of crops during the last four years have drained off every resource of the people. This year also the prospect of the paddy crop is extremely unsatisfactory. Day-labourers, unable to find work, are forsaking their homes with families. People are gathering the seeds of the *syama* grass and storing them against darker days. Many people are living on vegetables.

NIHAR,
Aug. 11th, 1908.

70. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 11th August writes :—
The distress prevailing among the residents of the King Dantakhari, Daudpur, Kamalpur, and Paharpur parganas and the Uddhabpur and Silampur mauzas in the Contai *khas mahal* in the Midnapore district has already been described in this paper. All hopes of the people from a personal inspection by the Subdivisional Officer has proved vain. For although that officer paid a visit to the locality on the 26th June last and inspected the condition of the people, the rent is being realised with unabated rigour.

Madhusudan Mahapatra, Gadadhar Mahapatra, and Raghunath Mahapatra are three respectable Brahmin residents of village Daudpur. They have lost their all by successive droughts, and their cattle and domestic utensils have been sold for the realisation of arrears of rent and the chaukidari-tax. In default of any moveable property that could be seized, these unfortunate men were lately arrested under a warrant for default in payment of rent. But as no money could be got out of them even by that means, they were released and their holdings were settled with another man from whom the arrears were recovered. But to recover the cost of this realisation they have again been arrested.

The tahsildars of the *khas mahal* have given out that certificates will be issued against raiyats from whom arrears exceeding Rs. 5 are due, if they do not deposit their rents within a short time. There is great distress for want of drainage in past years as well as want of rainfall this year. People are living on herbs and leaves, which are becoming unprocurable. Many have left their homes, leaving their families in a completely helpless condition. Even respectable women may be found begging in people's houses.

The Lieutenant-Governor is entreated to take steps to save the lives of these suffering people.

NIHAR.

71. Other correspondents of the same paper complain of the prevalence of distress in the Narayangar thana, in the Kanungai chak of the Omgar pargana, and in villages Dwarikapur, Totanala, Masuria, Nilkanthapur within the Bhagawanpur thana, as well as in villages Baraipur, Palpara, Falkara, etc., within the Pataspur thana. The sufferings of the distressed people are being intensified by the rigour in the realisation of the chaukidari-tax.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 4th, 1908.

72. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th August has the following:—

The Sivaji festival in Calcutta.

Musalman historians have charged Sivaji with treachery and other serious crimes, and in the accounts left by his enemies he has been contemptuously referred to as being only a robber chief and a common mountain rat. But none of these writers has been able to deny that though he was placed in the midst of extremely unfavourable circumstances, his extraordinary genius, self-reliance, and resourcefulness enabled Sivaji to create a national life in Maharashtra. Again, who shall deny that it was only Sivaji, unaided and unsupported by anybody as he was, whose perseverance and steadfastness of purpose brought about the unification of the small Mahratta States of the time, and by laying the foundations of a mighty Hindu Empire, developed the national power of the Mahrattas? It is no wonder that Sivaji, the glory and pride of Maharashtra, should be painted in black colours by his enemies. English historians have described Serajud-dowla, Mir Kasim and others as dire, blood-thirsty demons. But how

many people at the present time accept the views of these writers? Where is the man who will now blindly believe as true the unfavourable descriptions given of the great hero Napoleon by his enemies and regard him as inferior in courage and bravery to either Washington or Cromwell? The Mahrattas have compiled the history of Sivaji and have shown by incontestable proofs and unanswerable arguments that the charges brought against him are entirely baseless. There is no reason why we should disbelieve them. If we are to disbelieve the Mahrattas, we must also disbelieve the account given of every great man by his fellow-countrymen.

Like a deluge the Bargi hordes overran Bengal and brought desolation and anarchy on the country. The old Nawab, Ali Verdi, tried his utmost to check the invaders, but, owing to lack of intelligence, he failed. The people of Bengal were truly subjected to fearful oppression at the hands of the Mahrattas. But what connection was there in those days between Bengal and Maharastra? They were two different countries perfectly independent of each other. Strong in newly-gotten strength and bent upon making territorial conquest, one had invaded the other, while the country invaded, unable to defend itself, was trying to appease the invader by the payment of a *chauth*. There was then no community of interest or of sentiment between the two countries, nor did they own the sway of one and the same sovereign. To maintain the independence of his country, Wallace fought with the English, was captured, and cruelly killed by them. That great hero and patriot, Robert Bruce, deluged the field of Bannockburn with the blood of Englishmen and regained the independence of Scotland. Cromwell devastated England in a civil war and brought desolation on many parts of Scotland and Ireland. He had the English King beheaded, and caused himself to be made Lord Protector. And yet the people of Great Britain and Ireland have forgotten those tales of misery and disaster, and are now according the honours of a hero to Wallace and to Bruce and to Cromwell. The English public have consigned to oblivion the deeds done by those great men for the purpose of gaining the object they had in view, and remembering only the holy and exalted motives by which they were actuated, have so long gone on worshipping them as gods. Sivaji, too, exercised his powers with the object of creating a national life and brought to a focus isolated and divergent forces. We are now, all of us, living under the same English rule and have the same national wants and aspirations and interests. The object of all our Congresses and conferences is to make the Indians one nation, and our national aspiration is that under the rule of our English Sovereign we may be enabled to become one great and powerful nation. What objection can there be on our part to worship the memory of the great man who laboured untringly to create a national life? How can an auspicious union between you and ourselves be possible if I am unable to look upon your ideal as my ideal, and if under the influence of race antagonism I paint in black colours the god you adore? It was the great object of Sivaji's life to found a Hindu empire. India is now under English rule. No one, neither Hindu nor Musalman, now thinks of establishing an independent kingdom. It is in consideration of India's condition and requirements that Providence has placed her destinies in the hands of the noble English nation, and what is desired by Hindu and Musalman alike is that they should be able to live under English rule in peace and amity and enjoy its blessings, conveniences, and privileges.

73. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 5th August complains that most of the sweetmeat vendors within the Berhampur Municipality sell putrid articles. They also expose the sweets to dust and

Food inspection necessary in Berhampur town.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

the flies. This must be a fruitful source of maladies, and the prevalence of dyspepsia and bowel-complaints in Berhampur town may perhaps be attributed to this. Another source of danger to the public health is the adulteration of milk with impure water. Children generally suffer from this cause. It is hoped that the District Magistrate and the municipal authorities will make arrangements for the examination of articles of food.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 5th, 1903.

74. Referring to the tour of His Majesty the King-Emperor in Ireland, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th August pitifully observes that while the excited Irish people are receiving all the marks of Royal favour and sympathy, the Indians, who are the most devoted and loyal subjects of His Majesty, are denied those privileges. The news that His Majesty has ordered Rs. 7,500 to be distributed among the Irish poor will excite mingled feelings of satisfaction and jealousy in the Indian mind. The smallest mark of affection, even one kind word, from His Majesty, would afford the highest gratification to his Indian subjects, and would draw tears of gratitude from their eyes. But even this is not granted to them.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 6th, 1903.

75. Referring to the speech of His Excellency Lord Curzon, announcing that His Excellency has consented to remain in India some time longer, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th August remarks as follows:—

Extension of Lord Curzon's term of office. What more good Lord Curzon will do to the Indians we know not. There is a deep-rooted suspicion in the minds of the people that His Excellency has been trying to make the Indians dependent upon Englishmen in all matters. But as Lord Curzon has himself said that he means to exert himself for the welfare of the Indian people before he goes, let us wait in expectation of the arrival of that day. We only hope His Excellency will do such real and substantial good to India as will be appreciated by the people.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 6th, 1903.

76. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th August has the following in its English columns:—

Extension of Lord Curzon's term. So, the fiat has gone forth and Lord Curzon has quite made up his mind to accept the extension of his Viceregal term in India. The *Indian Daily News* publishes the following telegram from its Simla correspondent:—"At the meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council yesterday, His Excellency the Viceroy announced acceptance of the extension of office offered by His Majesty's Government, but did not state the period. The Viceroy will go home next year. Sir Charles Rivaz expressed satisfaction at the news." It is evident from the above that the information published by the *Pioneer*, on which we commented in our yesterday's issue, was substantially correct. Lord Curzon has made up his quarrel with our contemporary and taken him back to his bosom again—at least into his secrets. But there might just occur that little rift in the lute which makes the whole music mute. The whole matter is contingent upon the further development of the political situation in Great Britain. Mr. Chamberlain's preferential tariff scheme has proved a veritable apple of discord to the Ministry, and we have it on the authority of the Bible itself that a house divided against itself cannot stand. At any rate we may not have to wait much longer before a dissolution occurs, and a general election is fully under way. The Ministry may contrive to hold out till next year, but it will have to do so by the skin of its teeth. And then there is also the chance of its not being able to last till then. Mr. Winston Churchill and many another British politician of note are of opinion that the present state of things cannot last long, and that a dissolution is near at hand. In that case the whole apple-cart regarding Lord Curzon's extension of office will, of course, upset and the best laid plans of mice and men "gang aft agley." There can be no providing against such a contingency, and Lord Curzon's home-going in that case would be for good and all. But there is also just a chance that things may work more smoothly for him—the members of the present Ministry may hold on to their post, like the Roman sentry at the gate of Pompeii, with the ruins of the city literally falling about his ears, and die there with drawn salary (salary doing duty for sword, you know) in hand. In that case it is an extremely bad look out for India. Lord Curzon has become much too played out to suit our turn much longer. We have taken his measure, and can have no delusions regarding the results of his prolonged residence in our midst. There was a time when we could wish for no better news, but that was when Lord Curzon was only a dark horse who had not yet shown his pace, and we were ready and willing to put our money on him. But once bit, twice shy. Many had been looking forward to his home-going for good in such a spirit of pleasurable expectancy

that the disappointment is almost enough to break their hearts. There is, however, a grim significance about Lord Curzon's reticence about the term of extension. That at least is a comfort to some, and they still hope—even against hope—that they may be spared a renewal of their past agony.

77. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August has the following in its English columns:—

Extension of Lord Curzon's term. His Excellency's speech.

Since we last wrote on the subject, the full text of Lord Curzon's speech at Simla announcing his acceptance of the extension of office offered him by the Ministry in England has come to hand. True eloquence is one of the characteristic graces of George Nathaniel Curzon, and he appeared to have been in his best form when he made the speech under notice—it is one of the happiest efforts ever made by His Excellency. There is an under-current of seriousness, bordering almost on reverence, running through the whole pronouncement, which at once lifts it above the level of the commonplace and indicates the immense and overpowering sense of responsibility under which the speaker felt himself labouring for the time being. Lord Curzon takes both himself and his work all too seriously. Few men ever possessed his self-consciousness. We may not approve of his methods nor applaud the means which he adopts with a view to the achievement of his ends. But we are bound in common justice to admit that never was a Viceregal heart inspired by purer and loftier aims—nor even a Viceregal policy dictated by nobler or holier considerations. His Excellency has always meant well by the Indian people. He has tried to serve them according to the lights that are in him. And in their service he never spared either himself or his subordinates—busying himself the whole live-long day and far on to the small hours of the morning in the consideration and determination of measures tending to promote their true well-being and happiness. But the sincerity of motive is no guarantee against the error of judgment. And Lord Curzon has sometimes been betrayed into this error.

It seems that the offer of extension was made to His Excellency some months ago. Indeed, if our readers would turn over the back numbers of the *People* they would find that we predicted in so many words in the course of one of our leaders that such an extension was bound to be offered to His Excellency—that His Excellency must himself have bargained for it when he put his hands to numerous schemes of reform which could not be accomplished within the natural course of a Viceregal term of office, and held out a distinct undertaking to the world that, having set his hand to the plough, he would never look back until the end of the furrow was in sight. Only we had pointed out there was many a slip twixt the cup and the lip, and that everything depended on the turn taken by the tide of party politics in England. This is a contention which still holds good, and the extension of Lord Curzon's term, to which no limit has yet been fixed, is bound in the very nature of things to be contingent upon the further development of the political situation in England. If a general election suddenly comes about and the Tories go out of office, Lord Curzon would have to forego his extension and return home to England for good. This being so, we are not surprised to hear from His Excellency's own lips that he has accepted the extension not "without long and anxious consideration and with much misgiving." Lord Curzon has felt "that there was still work, hard and heavy, but necessary work to be done, which it was almost an obligation on the person, who has initiated it, to see it through." But would it be possible for Lord Curzon, who has initiated "wide and comprehensive schemes of reform" which could not be done in five years' time, to see the same work through even if he was given another five years to do it in? Lord Curzon is endowed with no little common sense, and he ought to know as well as ourselves that even fifteen years would be too short a time for the execution of such far-reaching schemes of reform. Lord Curzon spoke with feeling, and the following cannot but touch a responsive chord in the hearts of the Indian people:—"I have felt that by starting on to complete this task it might be in my power to do something more for the people of this country, which in one way or another I have endeavoured to serve for so many years of my life, and which can never lose its hold upon my affection." Lord Curzon has always had a fascination for India, and we are glad that his Indian experience has confirmed him more than ever in his affection for this important

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 7th, 1903.

country, which boasts few powerful friends like His Excellency. Further on Lord Curzon said that he might find justification for the acceptance of the extension of his office "in the approval of the Indian people whom it is my privilege to serve." Well, the Indian people generally do not count in such matters. And it will be news to many of them that so unjust (?) a personage as the Viceroy of India values their approval. It is sincerely to be hoped that at last during his prolonged term of office it will be permitted to Lord Curzon to justify the extension granted to him in utter disregard of past precedents, by earning the approval and gratitude of the Indian people. He has still another opportunity to win our esteem and affection, and it is to be trusted that he will know how to make a better use of it than he did of his past opportunities.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 8th, 1903.

78. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August has the following in its English columns:—

Extension of Lord Curzon's term.

The news of an extension of office granted to Lord Curzon has been received with high jubilation by a certain section of the English Press which has been wont to lay the butter thick on His Excellency and treat its readers to many a complimentary notice of the present Viceroy of India. The *Times* has always shown an unusual amount of tenderness for Lord Curzon, except on occasions like that of his famous Bombay speech, when the Viceroy showed an inconvenient tendency to consult Indian public opinion and concede to educated India its due. Then our contemporary felt himself taken very much "on the raw" and would resort to all kinds of cajoleries and threats to show Lord Curzon the error of his ways, and bring him to a more sensible frame of mind. The boot, however, is on the other leg now, and whatever the indigenous Indian Press may say of the extension, the *Times* applauds it with a whole heart and—let us at least hope so—with a clear conscience. The *Thunderer*, to give his nickname, though his thunders have of late degenerated into stage thunder, for which no one cares a bad half-penny any more, reviews at great length the high qualities and capacities which Lord Curzon has shown as Viceroy of India; the successes which have attended his efforts and which must encourage him in his great scheme of the reforms he has set before him. Well, the high qualities and capacities may be all right, but it is in reference to the alleged successes that we feel it our duty to join issue with our contemporary. Where are these famous successes? Some say they have not seen them by the seeing of the eye, nor heard of them by the hearing of the ear. We mean to deal with this question in a future issue. The extension of Lord Curzon's term of office, says the *Times*, is the best recognition of remarkable services rendered and the magnitude of the task he has undertaken. We wish it were so. But one version is that the Ministry do not well know what to do with Lord Curzon on his return to England. He is so very independent that Mr. Chamberlain—as he already knows to his cost—will find it precious hard to manage him as easily as he manages the rest of his colleagues. Indeed, it was because as Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. George Nathaniel Curzon was too wont to tread on Mr. Chamberlain's tenderest corns, that the Ministry thought it desirable to get him out of the way and made him happy with Indian Viceroyalty. And if Mr. Curzon, the Foreign Secretary, proved himself such a tough customer for Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Curzon, the *ex*-Indian Viceroy, with the halo of the Delhi Durbar hanging round his head, is likely to knock Mr. Joseph Chamberlain into a cocked hat. There is at any rate small chance of their ever being able to hit it off together, and the Ministry who are always so accommodating, ready to do anything to oblige Master Joe, are in no hurry to get him back on their hands—not of course, like the proverbial bad coin—and to have to find a place for him. We don't say that Lord Curzon can't boast of any success, but the success over which the *Times* croaks is perhaps—Lord Curzon's tremendous success with the Delhi elephant show. It is not the imagination of the East only which loves show and pomp. In reply to an article which has appeared in the *Englishman* making much of Lord Curzon's sacrifice, some might say that Lord Curzon is to stay on in India because he is not wanted at home, and because the first thing to be considered in this connection is Mr. Chamberlain's convenience and peace of mind. "Anything for a quiet life," say his colleagues, after the fashion of

the man who got a place in a high house up a bleak mountainous coast, against which the storms of heaven were incessantly wont to break.

This much for the *Times*, which usually sets the fashion going in such matters. And it is needless to add that all the other papers publish articles landing Lord Curzon's past services up to the skies, and writing no end of silly things about the devotion and self-denial shown by him in his acceptance of an extension of office. We shall let the devotion be. But is it such an act of self-denial after all, this acceptance of the Viceroyalty of India—an office to which are attached perquisites, privileges, and emoluments which pertain to no other office under the sun—no, not even to the Presidentship of the American Republic. Self-denial is supposed to be an exceptional quality, but find us the man, even in the ranks of the very journalists who have been "jawing" about it, who will not be glad of the opportunity to show such self-denial, and quietly step into the Indian Viceroyalty. Indeed, such self-denial we shall all of us be mighty glad to be given the chance to show, and shall be thankful for it ever afterwards. The *Daily Chronicle*—a turn-coat and an apostate from Radicalism—congratulates India on Lord Curzon's decision. The *Morning Post* says that though absent, Lord Curzon's service in India is such as to make it impossible for the British public to forget him. Why would then the British public keep him? The *Standard* says that Lord Curzon has been eager and strenuous beyond the most energetic of his predecessors (why drag them in at all?), and in consenting to remain in India he is sure of the applause and gratitude of his countrymen.

79. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says that in almost all his speeches Lord Curzon has expressed an intense desire to encourage the Indian fine arts, and he actually employed native artists to decorate the Darbar pavillion with Indian ornamental work. The building of the Victoria Memorial Hall will furnish His Excellency with a golden opportunity for giving effect to his words. It is hoped that the building will be constructed with Indian materials and by Indian artists.

HITAVARTA,
Aug. 9th, 1903.

80. The same paper has the following:—

The British and the Musalman rule compared. English and Anglicized gentlemen are in the habit of abusing the Musalman emperors of India in season and out of season. They say that the Musalman rulers of India were oppressive. We, however, mention two incidents—one of which occurred during the Musalman rule and the other during the English rule—in order to enable these detractors to judge of the comparative merits of the two rules.

HITAVARTA.

Azmat Khan, a general of the Emperor Akbar, was in the habit of colouring his hair with hair-dye, and for that purpose used to bring aniseed from the farm of an old woman without paying for it. The poor woman complained to the local Kazi (Judge) against Azmat Khan's conduct. The Kazi brought the matter to the notice of the emperor, who at once punished the general.

The muharrir of a mukhtear of Karimganj in Assam wrote for some coolies a petition against a European tea-planter. The Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj got angry with the muharrir for writing that petition and issued the following notice against him:—

"Whereas you have given proof of bad conduct or character by writing a petition of one Bengali cooli of the Piplagool Tea Estate, you are required to show cause, on or before the 10th July, why you should not be declared a professional tout."

We want to know under what law the muharrir can be called a tout for simply writing that petition.

81. The same paper says that the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh ought to stop the Nagpunchami fair which is held annually at Mukarimnagar in Lucknow. In this fair, women and born eunuchs assemble and enact, between them, farces of a most outrageous character.

HITAVARTA.

82. The same paper has the following:—

The Sovereign's own supervision of his State affairs. There is no doubt that the human mind can be captivated more by sweet words than by a number of offensive arms. But we are sorry to say that

HITAVARTA.

this fact is unknown to the many English officials who ill-treat the Indians in all ways. To a similar treatment is to be attributed the present feeling of disaffection of the people of Ireland. We are glad to learn that the King, by his speech in Ireland, has removed this feeling from the mind of the people of that country. In fact, the affairs of a State can be better managed by its owners than by his officers. If the King himself had come over to India to see the condition of his subjects, their misery would have greatly diminished.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 10th, 1903.

The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th August has the following in its English columns:—

Extension of Lord Curzon's term.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council of India held at Simla on the 4th of August, the Viceroy made a statement with regard to his tenure of office in India. His Majesty's Government had given him the option to extend his term of office and to go home on leave for a short period next year. He had given the subject his most anxious consideration and had come to the conclusion that he should avail himself of the offer and continue to hold his office after the expiration of its normal term. We are thankful to His Excellency for this decision and congratulate the country on it. If his immediate retirement meant the rule of Mr. Brodrick, the prospect could not be viewed with complacency. But apart from any question as to the character of a successor, there are good reasons why Lord Curzon cannot be spared at the present moment. He has to complete what he has begun. Not to complete it would be to undo a great deal of the work already done, to throw away the time, energy, and money that have been spent upon preparation. Progress is unending, and the time will never come when no reform will be wanted. We want Lord Curzon to stay, not to execute all possible reforms, but to mature and pass the measures to which he has already set his hand and which he deems to be essential and urgent. That is an obvious reason. But if we know our own mind we have another and a yet stronger reason for wishing Lord Curzon to be with us for a little while longer. It is the character of his personal influence; the atmosphere he has created in the official world. Many an official is only a wheel in the machinery. Lord Curzon is essentially a personality possessed at once of great intelligence, a pure and lofty character, and untiring energy. The entire official world from the Local Governor down to the humblest clerk, feels itself astir with the impulse communicated from the central, ruling mind. The slumber of ages has been disturbed. No one can go to sleep on his oars, or even "take it easy." Nothing that is done by the Government of India in these days is formal. It is not a mechanical signature that the Viceroy puts to documents that pass through his hands. There is no detail too trifling for His Excellency's scrutiny, or anything too elaborate and massive for his over-worked intellect.

It is not with a light heart that we can say farewell to a ruler such as this, however much we may differ from this or that opinion of his, this or that measure of his. Apprehensions have been expressed in some quarters of an approaching famine in some parts of the country. We do not consider the apprehension to be well-founded. But if a famine unfortunately should come, upon whom could we rely with greater confidence for battling with that dire enemy than upon Lord Curzon. If the plague should break out anywhere in as virulent a form as it did a few years back in Bombay or Poona, it is to Lord Curzon that the afflicted would look for protection against the rigour of preventive measures. It is he that has given the quietus to a system of prevention whose terrors were, sometimes and to some minds, greater than those of the plague itself. Talk of the princes and the people of India! Who has seen more of princes or given them better advice? Surely he is the best friend of the princes who does most to improve them and does not merely say fine things to them. Lord Curzon has opened to them a military career by organising the Imperial Cadet Corps. He has been endeavouring to improve the efficiency of the Chiefs' College. And he has been as mindful of the cottager as of the prince. He has turned his attention to agriculture, irrigation, industry, and commerce. His sympathy with the poorest has been the most marked. For the first time almost in the history of British India the British soldier has been made to feel that he is subject to civil authority and cannot defy it. Differing in some instances from the highest military authorities in India, and in others from powerful individuals and parties at home, Lord Curzon

has punished the oppressor's wrong in a way that it was never punished before. And he had sought to prevent outrages by soldiers and to secure the proper trial of military criminals, by measures which have made him unpopular with his countrymen. The magic of his influence has spread to every corner of the country; and to the injured clerk or the outraged coolie anywhere on this vast continent he is the final hope. Himself an ardent student, he has not allowed himself to be so engrossed by business concerns as to neglect the interests of higher education or to omit to provide for the comfort and the intellectual needs of the scholar who seeks to provide himself with a quiet corner in a public library.

He is the first Viceroy who has condescended to take notice of and to answer criticisms by private individuals. While attending almost to every detail of internal administration, he has been quick to realise the new phase of the old Eastern Problem, even with all its possible developments in the future, and to take measures and form schemes accordingly. Higher politics than the "parochial" have engaged his mind. The country feels that it is in the vigorous but warm and generous grasp of a ruler that is alive to his responsibilities; and that upon imperial questions like Preferential Tariffs and the cost of the South African garrison it can lay its trustful head on his bosom.

As we do not mean to write here a review of Lord Curzon's administration we need not say more. That with which we are most in sympathy in Lord Curzon is his social creed. Lord Curzon does not like, nor do we, that the Indian princes or the Indian people should be denationalised, that they should affect English ways of life and acquire English vices with not much of a readiness to assimilate the manly English virtues. Possibly this is one of the things which make him unpopular with our "progressive" countrymen. Great is our respect for Lord Curzon because he has so much respect for the art, the learning, the religion, the traditions of our people, and we only wish our educated countrymen could all so revere their own past. Which of them had felt the necessity of a preservation and restoration of ancient Indian monuments and works of art,—one of the greatest of Lord Curzon's achievements? His admiration of Indian art was probably not wholly acceptable to the princes and the gentry of India; it certainly exposed him to attacks from his own countrymen. The commemoration of the great is another noble impulse of Lord Curzon's; it is the natural result of a habit of mind so appreciative, so reverential, so grateful for bequests from the past. We have indicated from time to time our differences from his opinions and actions as occasion has arisen, but when we survey the personality of this ruler and take him for all in all, we cannot but feel that the longer he stays with us the better for the country. His Excellency modestly admits what an ungracious critic had said about his continuance in office 'No man is necessary.' We do not agree in that sentiment. Every man that is above the average is necessary. Mr. Gladstone is dead and the House of Commons remains. But the House without him is distinguishable from the House with him. Therefore he *was* necessary. With the daily disappearance of the sun in the evening we do not perish, but existence in darkness is not the same as existence in light. It may be a very long time before we have another Lord Curzon as Viceroy. He is therefore necessary now. His speech in Council announcing his resolution makes us realise that fact more clearly than ever.

84. The *People and Pratiwasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th August has the following in its English columns:—

The Lieutenant-Governor at
Murshidabad.

Whilst in Murshidabad the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal presented a gold watch and chain to Babu Srish Chander Ghose, Deputy Magistrate, in recognition of his services in connection with the arrest of the authors of the Nundigram riot. But was it necessary for His Honour to go out of his way in the course of the complimentary speech he made on the occasion and congratulate the late Subdivisional Officer of Tamluk on the so-called courage with which he turned an adder's ear to the writings of the Press on the subject? If the writings of the Press embody the public opinion of the country, are officials to be encouraged in setting public opinion at defiance? We repeat the question and wait for a reply.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug 10th, 1903.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 11th, 1903.

85. The same paper has the following in its English columns:—

Lord Curzon must be a very bad ruler because he gave the Imperial Anglo-Indians a slap in the face with one hand, and with the other carried to their doors the good things in his gift. Everywhere, it is said, he has introduced the Imperial Anglo-Indian element where formerly there were only natives. Now this only dark spot should not be allowed to obscure an otherwise splendid record. Have we degenerated to such an extent that we can appreciate nothing but what has a connection with our living?

Some say that Lord Curzon is to be held responsible for the extinction of self-government in Calcutta. We do not know if Lord Curzon has any sympathy with the aspirations of the educated people of India. But so far as the Calcutta Municipal Bill is concerned, we can very well acquit him of the charge of having ushered in the era of political repression as it is called in some quarters. Those who have at least any experience of how a household is managed may have felt that it is not always practicable to set one's face against every sort of wrong-doing, though one may have a great dislike for it. The Calcutta Municipal Bill went to him in such a developed stage that it was not open to him to do any other thing than to put to it his seal of approval.

May we not take this charitable view of his attitude? Why should we be so much lacking in imagination in judging others. Is it because we have not to be judged? We only point out that there might be another side to the question than the dark one.

Now that Lord Curzon is no longer in a state of unstable equilibrium, we should first ask him to see that our countrymen receive a really good education. Until our countrymen realise that other activities than those which bring power and pelf have their use, no real improvement of the nation can be expected. We wish Lord Curzon could do us the good turn of severing education from its utilitarian associations.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Aug. 12th, 1903.

86. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th August says that

Babu Srish Chandra Ghosh, late
Deputy Magistrate of Tamluk.

on the occasion of conferring a khilat on Babu Srish Chandra Ghosh, the late Deputy Magistrate of Tamluk, the Acting Lieutenant-Governor praised him for the courage and firmness with which he had done his duty in the Nandigram riot case in utter disregard of slanders and misrepresentations made in the vernacular newspapers. It is true many false statements appear in such newspapers. But has Government ever published any contradictions of such statements, and supplied any newspaper editor with the true facts of any case? Is everything that has been inserted in the newspapers against the Babu on the strength of information received from correspondents untrue? Are those who are now rotting in jail in connection with that riot case, all of them, guilty? Government has somehow maintained the peace of the country and Srish Babu, too, has carried out its orders in a most heartless manner. Why was his bungalow set on fire? Was not Government in a manner obliged to transfer him from Tamluk? Are all these statements false?

PRATIJNA,
Aug. 12th, 1903.

87. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 12th August writes as follows:—

The Sivaji festival.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the *Englishman* newspaper has this year expressed sympathy with the Sivaji festival recently held in Calcutta. Our worthy contemporary says:—

"The Bengalis have won whatever eminence they now possess by qualities of the intellect rather than of the muscle. The fact that they are now willing to adopt heroes from outside their own Province may be looked on with sympathy as indicating a new liberalism, the outcome of advancing civilisation."

It is true; our new liberalism is the outcome of English rule and English civilization. The *Pioneer*, however, grins and says:—

"It may amuse the Bengali and the Mahratta of to-day under the peaceful ægis of the British Raj to bandy high-sounding phrases about union and nationality, and "educated India" may extend the hand of fraternal fellowship to the Deccan with all the magnanimity in the world for just so

long as the much-abused Thomas Atkins stands guard over the helplessness of the one and the predatory instinct of the other. The Marhatta of to-day is at heart the Mahratta of two hundred years ago and the Bengali, be he never so educated, what he has always been."

Every Englishman should hide his face in shame at these words of the *Pioneer*. If "the Mahratta of to-day is at heart the Mahratta of two hundred years ago and the Bengali, be he never so educated, what he has always been," then it must be admitted that English education and English civilization are of no influence, efficacy or power. We ask our Anglo-Indian contemporary of the *Pioneer* if he entertains in his mind the same feelings and aspirations which his uncivilized forefathers entertained when clad in barks of trees they wandered tattooed in the forest. The more we shall learn to spurn at disparagers like the *Pioneer* and adore the great men of our country, the more our manly qualities will be refined and increased.

URIYA PAPERS.

88. All the native papers for the week under report state that the rainfall generally is seasonable and fairly well distributed. The rainfall in Orissa. Transplanting of late rice is in full operation.
89. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that out of 49 cholera seizures in the last week, there were 22 deaths in the Cuttack town. Cholera in Cuttack town.
90. The *Gurjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 1st August states that the Deputy Commissioner of Angul has established a new market at Halurisinga, which has proved successful, and has indirectly affected the prestige of the neighbouring Jarasinga market, which will probably be closed after a short period. A market at Halurisinga in Angul.
91. Referring to the proposal of Mr. Brodrick that India should bear a portion of the cost of the standing army to be retained in South Africa for Imperial purposes, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that the proposal is both unfair and selfish, and should, as such, be opposed both by the Viceroy and his people. Mr. Brodrick's proposal.
92. The same paper draws the attention of the public to the state of the middle English school at Pipli in the Puri district, and hopes that some charitable gentlemen will come forward with help to enable the institution to continue its useful career without any difficulty or hindrance. The middle English school at Pipli in the Puri district.
93. The same paper regrets to find that the revenues of many estates in Cuttack are running into arrears every year, and that this is more preceptible in the case of estates that have many co-sharers. It is therefore desirable that the Collector of Cuttack should study the difficulties of each individual mahal and try to find out the causes that affect so seriously the economic condition of the landed interest in that district. A report should, if necessary, be submitted to Government on the subject. Arrears of revenues in the Cuttack district.
94. Continuing its article on the economic condition of Orissa, past and present, the same paper points out how Government took *khas* management of Kurdah, Banki, Angul, Khondmahals and other large estates; how foreign Bengalis established themselves as proprietors of many rich and valuable estates; how a large army of Paiks, Khandaits, and Sardars were thrown out of employment and their *jaigirs* resumed; how the manufacture of salt, that gave work to a large number of men and women, was at first discouraged and then abolished, and how the foreign Telegus from the south, the foreign Mahrattas from the west, and the foreign Bengalis from the north poured in into different parts of Orissa and monopolised all the valuable posts in the different departments of Government, which the Englishmen had reserved for the natives of Orissa. The writer regrets that this policy of foreign ascendancy is in full operation, and points out how Mr. Dutt, the late Commissioner of Orissa, appointed a Bengali to the post of the Manager of Aul on Rs. 150 per mensem;

ALL THE NATIVE PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1903.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 1st, 1903.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1903.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

how Mr. Mitra, the District Judge of Cuttack, appointed a Bengali to the post of Common Manager of Bhingarpur estates on Rs. 300 per mensem; how Mr. Gupta, the Commissioner of Orissa, appointed a Bengali to the post of Tutor to the Rajkumars of Keonjhar on Rs. 300 per month, another Bengali to the post of Tutor to the Raja of Dhenkanal on Rs. 200 per mensem, and a Bengali lady to the post of Tutor to the Rani of Dhenkanal on Rs. 100 per month, though competent natives of Orissa were available for all these posts. The writer further states how Mr. Gupta, who had recently professed his genuine love for the Uriyas, fastened a pensioned Bengali Deputy Collector on the Raja of Nilgiri as his Manager, though the Raja had already set his heart on a native of Orissa, whom he had already nominated for the appointment. The Municipal Overseer and the District Engineer with his subordinates in Cuttack are Bengalis. Even some clerks under the Common Manager of Bhingarpur estates are Bengalis. The Police Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, and the clerks in the office of the Engineers in Orissa are mostly foreign Bengalis. Nay, most of the Pleaders are Bengalis. The writer closes his article with a deep sigh, not knowing how this importation of foreign talents can be successfully checked by a judicious extension of patronage to indigenous talents.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th August, 1903.